

**Claims**

1. A feed control assembly for feeding a cable on to a rotatable reel comprising,  
primary guide means for controlling the location of the cable as it feeds on to  
5 the reel, and  
a drive assembly arranged to reciprocate the primary guide means as the cable  
feeds through the primary guide means.
2. A feed control assembly according to claim 1 comprising a transverse member  
10 extending generally parallel to an axis of the rotatable reel the primary guide means  
being reciprocable along the transverse member and a motor is provided to rotate the  
rotatable reel and drive the drive assembly.
3. A feed control assembly according to claim 2 wherein the transverse member  
15 comprises a housing for a driven endless chain which acts as the drive assembly to  
reciprocate the primary guide means and the motor comprises a hydraulic motor.
4. A feed control assembly according to claim 3 wherein the primary guide  
means comprises a guide member mounted on a guide support, and the guide support  
20 is telescopically slidable on the transverse member.
5. A feed control means according to claim 4 wherein the guide support includes  
a slot for receiving a pin attached to the driven endless chain.
- 25 6. A feed reel assembly comprising,  
a feed control assembly according to claim 1,  
a mounting assembly for rotatably mounting the rotatable wheel, and  
hydraulic drive means arranged to drive the drive assembly and rotatable  
wheel.

7. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on to and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground comprising the feed reel assembly of claim 1 mounted on the cable laying vehicle.
- 5 8. A feed control assembly according to claim 1 wherein,  
the transverse member comprises a shaft having a shaft axis,  
shaft drive means are provided for rotating the shaft about the shaft axis,  
the drive assembly is mounted on the shaft and arranged to be driven in a  
reciprocating manner along the shaft between two travel end points by the rotation of  
10 the shaft, and  
switch means are arranged so as to change a setting of the drive assembly to  
cause it to reverse direction when it reaches each of the travel end points.
9. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the mounting assembly  
15 comprises a rolling ring drive.
10. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 comprising a stabilizing rail  
extending generally parallel to the shaft axis, and stabilizing means extending  
between the drive assembly and stabilizing rail the stabilizing means being arranged  
20 to prevent the drive assembly from rotating.
11. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the primary guide  
means is mounted on the drive assembly.
- 25 12. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 wherein the mounting assembly  
comprises a rolling ring drive, the feed control assembly comprises a stabilizing rail  
extending generally parallel to the shaft axis and stabilizing means extending between  
the drive assembly and stabilizing rail, and the primary guide means is mounted on  
the drive assembly.
- 30 13. A module comprising a rotatable reel and a feed control assembly according to  
claim 12 constructed so that the module may be removably lifted onto the tray of a

vehicle and the rotatable reel is mounted on a mounting assembly which is detachably secured to the module.

14. A feed control assembly according to claim 8 comprising a hydraulic motor  
5 for rotating the rotatable reel and driving the drive assembly.

15. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground comprising the feed reel assembly of claim 8 mounted on the cable laying vehicle.

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16. A cable laying vehicle for feeding cable on and off a rotatable reel as the vehicle travels along the ground, the vehicle having a driver's cab with a roof and a tray, comprising the feed assembly of claim 12 mounted on the tray and secondary guide means constructed so as to guide the cable over the roof of the driver's cab and  
15 through the primary guide means as the cable laying vehicle moves forward to pick up cable from the ground.

17. A cable laying vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the secondary guide means are mounted on the roof.

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18. A feed controlled assembly according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.

19. A cable laying vehicle according to claim 7 substantially as hereinbefore  
25 described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.